

ABSTRACT

A software-based computer method for limiting the lifetime of an electronic credit card transaction that makes the transmitted credit card information useless when a configurable time limit expires. The method is designed to provide protection for electronic transactions that require use of an identifying key such as a credit card number, with or without an additional unique identifier comprising a sequence of alphanumeric values, such as a PIN, for the purpose of initiating a transaction. The method provides protection by the addition of a transaction-initiated date/time stamp which is included as part of the transmitted transaction information and provides the basis for limiting the amount of time the transaction is valid.

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